

County of Essex, N.J.

The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders Hereby issues this Resolution

WHEREAS, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND HIS LIFE ARE CELEBRATED IN JANUARY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BIRTHDAY BEING A NATIONAL HOLIDAY; AND

WHEREAS, FEBRUARY HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED BLACK HISTORY MONTH; AND

WHEREAS, THE ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS WISHES TO HONOR RESIDENTS OF ESSEX COUNTY WHO EXEMPLIFY IN THEIR LIFE AND WORK THE EXAMPLE SET BY THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; AND

WHEREAS, WILLIAM M. ASHBY WAS BORN IN 1889 IN THE TOWN OF CARTERS GROVE, YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA; AND

WHEREAS, IN 1904, DR. ASHBY CAME TO NEWARK, NEW JERSEY (ESSEX COUNTY) AFTER WHICH HE RECEIVED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM LINCOLN UNIVERSITY; AND

WHEREAS, IN 1913, HE ATTENDED YALE UNIVERSITY RECEIVING A DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK; AND

WHEREAS, IN 1917, AFTER TEACHING AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL IN DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA, DR. ASHBY RETURNED TO NEWARK TO FOUND THE URBAN LEAGUE, WHICH WORKED TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS, HOUSING CONDITIONS AND HEALTH CARE IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY; AND

WHEREAS, THE FIRST OFFICE OF THE URBAN LEAGUE WAS LOCATED AT 58 MARKET STREET, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS AWAY FROM THE ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS' MEETING ROOM AT THE HALL OF RECORDS; AND

WHEREAS, DR. ASHBY IS THE AUTHOR OF 3 WORKS, "REDDER BLOOD" (1915), "THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS", (1958 PLAY) AND "TALES WITHOUT HATE" (1980); AND

WHEREAS, DR. ASHBY ALSO HEADED DURING THE COURSE OF HIS CAREER, THE URBAN LEAGUE OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS AND ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS HEREBY SALUTES THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. WILLIAM M. ASHBY. THE WORK OF DR. ASHBY IN ESSEX COUNTY HAS DONE MORE OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME TO IMPROVE RACE RELATIONS AND TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR PLURALISTIC SOCIETY THAN THE WORK OF ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL IN ESSEX COUNTY.

Jerome D. Greco
President, Board of Freeholders



John M. Alati
Freeholder

Pearl Beatty
Freeholder

Arthur L. Clay
Freeholder

Cardell Canper
Freeholder

Adrianne Davis
Freeholder

Thomas P. Giblin
Freeholder, Vice President

Monroe Jay Lustbader
Freeholder

Joseph C. Parlavecchio
Freeholder

Attest: Daniel W. Liberman, Jr. Date: February 29, 1985
Clerk of the Board